

Ivan Mirnik (Zagreb)

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## HRVATSKO-AMERIČKI DOTICAJI NA PODRUČJU MEDALJERSTVA: IVO KERDIĆ I WILLIAM CHAUNCY LANGDON II. dio

*Jedan od velikih prijatelja Ive Kerdića (\* Davor, 19. svibnja 1881. – † Zagreb, 27. listopada 1953.) bio je Amerikanac William Chauncy Langdon (\* 1871. – † 1947.). Doduše, nisu se nikada osobno upoznali, ali taj je Amerikanac uistinu mnogo učinio da naš veliki umjetnik postane poznatim i u Sjedinjenim Američkim Državama. O tome prijateljstvu svjedoči relativno obilna, iako samo dijelom sačuvana korespondencija. Tih šezdesetak pisama od osobite su važnosti za svakoga koga zanima umjetnost medalje između dvaju svjetskih ratova, ne samo u Europi, nego i u Sjedinjenim Američkim Državama, a osobito hrvatska medalja i Kerdić napose.*

*Ključne riječi: Ivo Kerdić, William Chauncy Langdon, medalje, plakete*

U prvome dijelu teksta o dopisivanju Ive Kerdića i Williama Chauncy Langdona predočili smo čitateljstvu pisma koja su obojica izmijenila od 1923. do kraja 1925. godine. U nastavku objelodanjujemo sačuvana pisma od početka 1926. pa sve do obavijesti o preminuću Langdona, koju je Ivo Kerdić primio od njegove udovice Marion Langdon u pismu s nadnevkom 19. ožujka 1947.

Prema prvom Langdonovu pismu iz 1926. godine doznajemo da je dr. Ivan Švegel (Shvegel)<sup>1</sup> Langdonu donio još jedan paket s medaljama, i to 17. veljače 1926. (pismo br. 19.), pa je Langdon autoru poslao popis 14 medalja u 19 primjeraka i napisao da i neke druge američke skupljače zanimaju Kerdićeva djela te da bi ih vrlo rado nabavili (pisma br. 20.-23.).

Nekoliko pisama, koja su izmijenila ta dvojica prijatelja, spominju i nastanak Langdonovih portretnih medalja<sup>2</sup> 1928. godine. Kao što je to Dragutin Mandl napisao 1953. godine: „... U tom razdoblju nalazimo i dvije medalje njegova američkog prijatelja William Chauncy Langdona, ravnatelja numizmatičke zbirke u New Yorku, od kojih je jedna reducirana i otkovana, te u originalu odlivenu jednostranu medalju lijepe Amerikanke Marjorie Swan. W. Ch. Langdonu treba zahvaliti, da se mnogo Kerdićevih medalja nalazi u Americi (moguće više nego u našim javnim zbirkama).“<sup>3</sup>

Ideja o modeliranju jedne portretne medalje s Langdonovim likom iskrsla je prvi put u Kerdićevu pismu 9. listopada 1926. (pismo br. 25.) U istome pismu Kerdić je izvijestio svog američkoga prijatelja o nekim drugim predmetima koje je, osim medalja, upravo stvarao: mnogo predmeta primijenjene umjetnosti, naročito svijećnjake, svjetiljke

<sup>1</sup> Ivan Krizostom Švegel (\* Zgornje Gorje, 17. prosinca 1875. – † Bled, 5. veljače 1962.), slovenski diplomat i političar.

<sup>2</sup> Mandl, 1953., str. 95.; Montani, 1958., str. 9., 11., 51.; Zlamalik, 1964., str. 541., br. 166.; Nada Todorović, 1964., str. 141.-142., br. 438.

<sup>3</sup> Mandl, 1953., str. 95.

ukrašene skulpturama i različite bilikume za športska društva, a poslao mu je i nekoliko fotografija svojih najnovijih medalja. Langdon je potvrdio primitak pisma i priloženih slika u pismu od 19. ožujka 1927. (pismo br. 24.) Također je najavio svoju namjeru da sastavi članak o Kerdiću i njegovu radu za časopis *Slavonic Review*.

Prije 22. svibnja 1927. Langdon je Kerdiću poslao jednu svoju fotografiju (pismo br. 26.). „*My dear Sir*” (Kerdić: „Dragi moj gospodine”), kako je pisao medaljer, i „*My dear Professor Kerdić*” („Dragi moj profesore Kerdiću”), ili „*My dear Mr. Kerdić*” (Langdon: „Moj dragi gospodine Kerdiću”) iznenada su se pretvorili u „*My dear Friend*” („Dragi moj prijatelju”) u pismu upućenom Kerdiću 22. srpnja 1927. (pisma br. 27.-28.). U post skriptumu Langdon je Kerdića također upitao znade li on postoje li dobri umjetnici-medaljeri u Rumunjskoj ili Bugarskoj.

Nešto više o svome članku namijenjenom urednicima časopisa *Slavonic Review* Langdon je napisao u pismu od 7. kolovoza 1927. (pismo br. 29.). Istovremeno je umjetnika zamolio za jedan primjerak plakete s portretom velike hrvatske glumice tragedkinje Nine Vavre.<sup>4</sup> Langdon je postavio dodatna pitanja o nekim umjetničkim radovima za članak koji je pisao, a nastavio je postavljati pitanja i u idućem pismu. Izravnu pomoć dobio je i od V. Gecana i njegove žene, koji su ga posjetili u njegovu uredu, kao što se doznaje iz pisma od 16. kolovoza 1927. (pismo br. 30.). Langdon im je pročitao svoj članak, zatim su ga prodiskutirali te dali neke podatke, no to nije bilo dovoljno.

Pismo s nadnevkom 12. listopada 1927. (pismo br. 31.) govori nam o napretku članka, koji je Langdon u međuvremenu poslao urednicima časopisa „*Slavonic Review*” u London. Budući da je Kerdić bio izrazio želju da dođe u Sjedinjene Američke Države i tamo neko vrijeme radi, Langdon ga je od toga odgovarao.

Konačno su Kerdiću stigle dvije dobre Langdonove fotografije, snimio ih je u oba profila De Witt Ward u New Yorku, a na poledini nose nadnevak u Langdonovu rukopisu, 19. siječnja 1928. Prema njima Kerdić je izradio dvije inačice lica i jednu naličja. Nereducirane sadrene modele Langdonove medalje Kerdić je deponirao u Gliptoteci 1947. godine.<sup>5</sup> To su dvije inačice aversa: sadreni model s Langdonovim poprsjem u građanskoj odjeći, u poluprofilu, okrenutom nalijevo i s natpisom WILLIAM CHAUN-CY LANGDON (promjer 304 mm, promjer same medalje 270 mm), i druga je inačica, s istim tekstom, s Langdonovim poprsjem, odjevenim u rimsku togu, u profilu, okrenutom nalijevo (promjer 307 mm). U konačnici Kerdić je za izvedbu medalje odabrao lijevi profil<sup>6</sup> te ga je na licu signirao lipovom grančicom, kakvu je katkada stavljao na svoja djela umjesto signature. Na naličju čitamo: TO MY AMERICAN FRIEND, i vidimo mladu ženu, odjevenu u antičku odjeću, kako stoji na postolju, okrenutu licem, glavom okrenutom nalijevo (slika 1.). U ljevici drži rog obilja, a medalju u podignutoj desnici (obje su ruke neproporcionalne). S lijeva nalazi se lovorov grm, s odrezanim granama, i sa samo jednom granom s lišćem, a na jednoj od odreznanih grana sjedi sova. Dolje

<sup>4</sup> Nina Vavra – Bach (\* Križevci, 5. siječnja 1879. – † Zagreb, 21. kolovoza 1942.), hrvatska glumica.

<sup>5</sup> Spis od 4. IV. 1947., br. 39., Inv. br. 3(52). Taj popis sadrži 257 jedinica. Arhiv za likovne umjetnosti HAZU u Zagrebu, Inv. br. 758, signatura D200/185, kutija XII. Neka pisma, koja su se još nalazila u posjedu Vjekoslave Kerdić, čuvaju se u Nadbiskupijskom arhivu u Zagrebu.

<sup>6</sup> Bronca, posrebrana bronca, 45 mm; Mandl, 1953., str. 95.; Montani, 1958., str. 9., 49.; Zlamalik, 1964., str. 54., br. 166.; Todorović, 1964., str. 141., br. 438.

lijevo nalazi se smotak pergamenta s pečatom. S desna je nadnevak 1.4./1928., a ispod njega vrč. Signatura JK vidi se u odsječku. Na žalost, taj se revers ni u kojem slučaju ne bi mogao uvrstiti među Kerdićeva remek-djela. Sadreni model naličja također se čuva u zagrebačkoj Gliptoteci (267 mm u promjeru), a isto tako i čelični kalup aversa (promjer 73 mm, visina 30 mm), a i pozitiv naličja (promjer 63 mm, visina 43 mm); gravirala ih je tvrtka Griesbach i Knaus u Zagrebu, što je razvidno iz njihova pečata na rubu štance naličja.



Slika 1. Medalja Langdon (HAZU)

Dana 7. ožujka 1928. Langdon je Kerdića izvjestio da ga je Sir Bernard Pares, urednik časopisa *Slavonic Review* obavijestio da će članak biti objelodanjen u ljetnom broju, a 30. studenog 1928. (pismo br. 32.). Langdon je mogao izvijestiti Kerdića o još jednom svom članku o njemu i njegovom medaljerskom opusu, koji bi se trebao objaviti u lipanjskom svesku francuskoga časopisa *Arethuse* za 1929. godinu, a o tome ga je obavijestio Jean Babelon (pismo br. 33.).

U pismu od 7. siječnja 1931. (pismo br. 35.) Kerdić je Langdonu javio da je svog prijatelja, slikara Ivana Gundruma<sup>7</sup> zamolio da mu u Ameriku odnese još neke fotografije medalja i medalje (Stjepan Radić, Vladimir Becić, William Chauncy Langdon) te da ih pošalje poštom Langdonu. U istom pismu objavljuještava Langdona da je u Zagrebu osnovano numizmatičko društvo (sadašnje Hrvatsko numizmatičko društvo; zapravo osnovano 1928.), da ima približno 80 članova i da mu je predsjednik Benko Horvat.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Ivan Gundrum (\* Oriovac, 10. veljače 1892. – † Boston, 17. svibnja 1967.), hrvatski slikar i scenograf.

<sup>8</sup> Benko Horvat (\* Vinkovci, 14. rujna 1874. – † Zagreb, 28. veljače 1955.), numizmatičar i sakupljač, osnivač Hrvatskog numizmatičkoga društva i začetnik društvenih publikacija. Donator Galerijama grada Zagreba i Gradskom muzeju u Vinkovcima.

Na sceni se sad pojavljuje Vera Milčinović – Tashamira,<sup>9</sup> s nadimkom Čuča ili Čučica, kći Kerdićevih starih prijatelja Andrije<sup>10</sup> i Adele Milčinović,<sup>11</sup> vrlo poznata plesačica, vrlo šarmantna i lijepa dama, profila sličnog Greti Garbo, koja se početkom 1937. godine vraćala u New York te je sa sobom ponijela neke Kerdićeve medalje namijenjene Langdonu. Pokušala ga je pronaći, no adresa koju joj je Kerdić dao nije bila točna (Broadway 175 umjesto 195). To je objasnila u svom pismu Kerdiću, s nadnevkom 13. siječnja 1937. (pismo br. 36.), a 10. veljače Kerdić joj je poslao točnu adresu Langdonova ureda (pismo br. 37.). Ni taj put nije imala sreće jer je Langdon zbog starosne dobi umirovljen u jesen 1936. Na svu sreću Tashamira je srela njegovu bivšu sekretaricu Anne Rolichcheck, Čehinju, a ta je preuzela donesene medalje i o tom posjetu i pristiglim medaljama obavijestila Langdona, koji se već preselio na novu adresu u Bronxvilleu. Cijelu priču o tim događajima opisao je Langdon Kerdiću u svom pismu od 25. veljače (pismo br. 38.), a gotovo istodobno i Tashamira u svom listu od 9. ožujka 1937. (pismo br. 41.). Langdon se također zahvalio na medaljama koje je primio nešto ranije (Matica hrvatskih kazališnih dobrovoljaca i Quiqueran Beaujeau, obje nastale 1935.). Langdon je u istom pismu zamolio Kerdića da mu više ne šalje medalje jer je zbog umirovljenja morao smanjiti sve suvišne izdatke. U pismu od 9. ožujka 1937. Langdon je potvrdio primitak triju medalja, koje mu je donijela Vera Milčinović: dvije medalje s portretom Aleksandra I. Karađorđevića i plaketu Kerdićeve nećakinje Vere Pije Pilar (1906.), izrazivši svoje divljenje u svezi sa sva tri rada (pismo br. 40.). Pismo Vere Milčinović Kerdiću od 10. ožujka sadrži njezinu zahvalu (a zahvaljuje i u ime svoje majke Adele i sestre Deše, koje su se već nalazile u Sjedinjenim Američkim Državama (adresa im je bila 168 West 58th Street, New York City), na lijepom daru, medalji plesa Hrvata u Beču 1912. godine (pismo br. 41.).

Dana 12. srpnja 1937. Kerdić je Langdonu napisao da su medalje poslane po Veri Milčinović dar za njega (pismo br. 47.), a također je najavio svoje putovanje u Svetu zemlju i Egipat. Prigoda za to bila je posveta kapele bl. Nikole Tavelića u Betlehemu, koju je trebao obaviti zagrebački nadbiskup bl. Alojzije Stepinac. Opremu cijele kapele izveo je Kerdić. Postoje albumi sa slikama, a i pojedinačne fotografije s toga glasovitog hodočašća, koje je snimao Ljudevit Griesbach.

<sup>9</sup> Vera Milčinović – Tashamira (\* Zagreb, 20. kolovoza 1906. – † Rodeo, California, 24. ožujka 1995.) Zahvaljujući ljubeznosti Bruce Burroughsa, nekadašnjeg urednika časopisa *Opera Quarterly*, i biografa hrvatske sopranistice Zinke Kunc Milanov, iz Van Nuysa, California, SAD, dobio sam sljedeće podatke: „*The Social Security Death Registry lists a Vera T. Milcinovic (nothing at all under Tashamira), U.S. Social Security #109-16-8533, issued in the state of New York before 1951. This lady was born 20 August 1904 and died 24 March 1995. Her last place of residence was Rodeo, California (zip code 94572). That is the northern part of California (as you know, it is a huge state and has the fifth largest economy of any governmental entity in the world), in Contra Costa County. I am assuming this is the correct lady and that, like most performers (especially female) she took a few years off her age at the beginning of her career (thus your reference book says “1906”).*”

<sup>10</sup> Andrija Milčinović (\* Sisak, 10. studenoga 1877. – † Zagreb, 28. studenoga 1937.), hrvatski pisac, dramaturg, kazališni kritičar i kustos Muzeja za umjetnost i obrt u Zagrebu. Njegova druga žena Olga (\* 1877. – † Zagreb, 5. siječnja 1971.) bila je suradnica antinacističkoga pokreta tijekom Drugoga svjetskog rata: s njezina telefona aktivirana je bomba postavljena u pošti u Jurišićevoj ulici u Zagrebu.

<sup>11</sup> Adela Milčinović (\* Sisak, 1880. — † New York, 21. lipnja 1968.), hrvatska spisateljica i novinarka. Tijekom Drugog svjetskog rata radila je kao hrvatski spiker za Glas Amerike.

Godina 1939. i 1940. Kerdić i Langdon izmijenili su još nekoliko pisama. Dana 7. ožujka 1940. Kerdić je Langdonu javio da mu je poslao zadnju medalju, kovanu u povodu Kongresa za povijest medicine u Zagrebu (1938.), a obećao je poslati mu i medalju dr. Vladka Mačeka. U istom listu Kerdić je spomenuo da dolaze strašna ratna vremena (pismo br. 48.).

Doticaji između Langdona i Kerdića nastavili su se sve do početka Drugog svjetskog rata u Hrvatskoj, kad su prekinuti, no čim je to postalo moguće, koncem 1945. godine Langdon je Kerdiću poslao božićnu čestitku (pismo br. 51.). Tada je živio u Wesportu, Connecticut (Roseville Road). Sačuvan je hrvatski koncept Kerdićeva pisma (pismo br. 52.) i njegov prijevod na engleski (pismo br. 53.), kojim prijatelja obavještava da je rat preživio s mnogo bola jer je izgubio stariju kćer Vidu, odličnu pijanisticu, a i njegov život da je bio u nekoliko navrata u opasnosti. I dalje je predavao na Akademiji likovnih umjetnosti. Langdonu je obećao poslati medalju iskovanu u povodu njegova 60. rođendana, koju je sam izmodelirao, a gravirao ju je njegov učenik Teodor Krivak (slika 2.). Za Uskrs 1946. Langdon je sastavio tekst i položio ga zajedno s cvijećem na oltar tamošnje crkve (pisma br. 54.-55.).



*Slika 2. Medalja Kerdić (AMZ)*

Posljednji Langdonov list napisan je 29. prosinca 1946. (pismo br. 59.). Iduće godine Kerdić je primio tužni list Marion A. H. Langdon, žene Williama Chauncyja, sastavljen 19. ožujka 1947. (pismo br. 60.), u kojem mu piše o muževljevoj teškoj bolesti - leukemiji.

Arhiv Ive Kerdića pohranjen je u Arhivu za likovne umjetnosti HAZU, te u Nadbiskupijском arhivu u Zagrebu, a djelomično sačuvana korespondencija Kerdića i Langdona samo je njezin mali dio. Još više podataka odnosi se na brojne narudžbe kipova, reljefa, medalja (uključujući i svetačke i hodočasničke medaljice) i znakove. Kerdićev arhiv, napose donacija Vjekoslave Kerdić, ostat će važan izvor za proučavanje umjetnosti medalje u Hrvatskoj u prvoj polovici 20. st. i nadamo se da će mlada generacija znanstvenika njime služiti i u budućnosti.

Zahvale: pisac najsrdačnije želi zahvaliti svima koji su mu pomogli pri sastavljanju ovoga teksta, a to su: sada već pokojna umjetnikova kći Slavica (Vjekoslava) Kerdić, Vesna Mažuran Subotić (Gliptoteka HAZU), kolegice u Arhivu za likovne umjetnosti HAZU, Sonia Wild Bičanić, Marko Šarinić, Igor Krajcar i Filip Beusan.

## **PISMA II.**

### **Pismo br. 18.**

**23. siječnja 1926., New York – W. C. Langdon I. Kerdiću.**

The American Telephone and Telegraph Company/ Bell System/ 195 Broadway  
New York

January 23, 1926

Professor Ivo Kerdic / Ilica, 85, / Zagreb, Jugoslavia.

My dear Prof. Kerdic,

I sincerely regret the long time since I wrote to you last. I received the medals safely on November 27th, and now a short time ago your letter of December 22nd. There is so little interest here in the medallic art! But I am going ahead and there is some interest growing among the small exhibitions I have been arranging. Your medals are all safe, and I hope before very long to be able to report some sales. They are so fine and strong and beautiful! I admire them greatly and am very glad indeed to be able to show them. With sincere appreciation and best wishes, believe me,

Very truly yours

William Chauncy Langdon

### **Pismo br. 19.**

**17. veljače 1926., New York – W. C. Langdon I. Švegelu.**

War-Debt Funding Commission to the United States of America of the Kingdom  
of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes

Prepis.

American Telephone & Telegraph Co. / 195 Broadway New York.

February 17, 1926.

Dr. Ivan Shvegel / etc. / Washington

My dear Dr. Shvegel,

I thank you for your note of February 12th and for the letter and package from Professor Ivo Kerdic which you kindly left at the Hotel Pennsylvania for me. I have safely received them. I very sincerely admire Professor Kerdic's work and wish that the appreciation of the medallic art in this country were sufficiently general to bring him some



recognition. However I am doing what I can in my small way and I trust that he feels that my regard for his ability and for the fine national quality of his art by its sincerity makes up for the time being for the limited extend of the American appceiation.

With best wishes and respect, believe me,

Very truly yours

WILLIAM CHAUNCY LANGDON

Prof. Kerdić –

Srdačan pozdrav.

Vraćam se okoli 15. 3.

I. Shvegel

### **Pismo br. 20.**

**20. veljače 1926., New York – W. C. Langdon I. Kerdiću.**

American Telephone and Telegraph Company/ Bell System/ 195 Broadway New York

February 20, 1926

Professor Ivo Kerdic, / Ilica, 85, / Zagreb, Jugoslavia.

My dear Professor Kerdic,

A few days ago I received a letter from Dr. Ivan Shvegel and the package of the two large cast medals which you have sent to me by his hand. I am very glad indeed to see these, and I wish I might be able to sell them for you. I do not think that in a short time I shall sell a few of your fine medals, and I shall keep the others on hand hoping that more purchasers may appear later. In a day or two I am going to get in touch with Mr. Gecan and arrange a set of prices. In only a few cases have you stated the price, though you have authorized me to use my own judgement. That there may be no mistake or misunderstanding, I am going in this letter to list what medals I have. You can then be sure that I have received all you have sent to me.

National Medal of Jugoslavia, 1918, 80 mm (2 exemplaires)

Slobod Krail Giav Grad Zagreb, 90x62 mm (1)

Petar Dobrovic, 40 mm (1)

Vilko Gecan, 40 mm (2)

Jockey Club, 60 mm (3)

Zenska Udruga, 1908, 60 mm (1)

Zaspomen Zagreb 1912, 60 mm (2)

Bratu Josipu Hanusu, 70x62 mm (1)

Lady Malesevic, 1923m 112x100 mm, Cast (1)

Pies Hrvata U Becu, 1912, 55 mm (1)

Neda, 40 mm (1)

H.S. 925 – 1925, 33 mm (1)

Dr. Joseph Georgius Strossmayer, Cast, 165 mm (1)

Slovenac Hrvata Srbin, Cast, 167x182 mm (1)

A total of 19 exemplaires of 14 medals

With sincere regard and admiration, believe me

Very truly yours,

William Chauncy Langdon

### **Pismo br. 21.**

**1. svibnja 1926., New York – W. C. Langdon I. Kerdiću.**

American Telephone and Telegraph Company / Bell System / 195 Broadway New York

May 1, 1926

Professor Ivo Kerdić, / Ilica, 85, / Zagreb, Jugoslavia.

My dear Professor Kerdić,

It gives me pleasure to tell you that I have sold two of your medals at the special prices you authorized for them, and to send you with this \$ 20.00 for them. (By International Postal Money Order). Both were bought by a gentleman for presentation to the Museum of the American Numismatic Society. The one is the National Medal of Yugoslavia, \$ 15.00; the other the Vilko Gecan, \$ 5.00. I can assure you of the pleasure of the officers and members of the Society at having these fine and important additions to the representation of your strong distinctive work in their Museum. --- You have given me no idea of the price of the two large medals you sent me a while ago, the Bishop Strossmayer and the rectangular one with the three female figures. It is doubtful however if I can sell them, but I shall be glad to do my best. So too regarding the others, I understand you wish me to use my own judgement, but I hesitate to this, especially when I consider buying one or two of them myself. Those that I have give me ever increasing pleasure and satisfaction, the unfailing mark of true art. With sincere assurance of my admiration for you work and with best wishes for you continued achievement, believe me,

Very truly yours

William Chauncy Langdon

### **Pismo br. 22.**

**5. rujna 1926., New York – W. C. Langdon I. Kerdiću.**

American Telephone and Telegraph Company / Bell System / 195 Broadway New York

September 5, 1926

Professor Ivo Kerdić / Ilica, 85, / Zagreb, Jugoslavia.



My dear Prof. Kerdić,

I am sending you with this a money order for \$ 13.00 for four of your medals, as follows: -

Slobod Krail Zagreb - \$ 4.00

Zenska Udruga - \$ 3.00

Zaspomen Zagreb – \$ 3.00

Jockey Club – \$ 3.00

Three of these I am buying myself; one a friend of mine here who is beginning to get interested in medals. I have fixed on these prices as reasonable after considering that some good American medals bring when they find their way into the market; and the very slight market there is here for medals. I think higher prices would not be accepted. But I do not by any means think that what may seem to you low prices indicates anything as to their artistic quality. But, especially as I am myself buying three of these, I wish these prices to be an offer and I ask you to feel free to reject the offer if you wish to do so. I hope to see one or both of the two large medals go into the Museum of the American Numismatic Society; the price you ask for them, \$ 7.00 each, I consider reasonable, and I hope to sell them both. Sometime I hope you will consent to my buying the other exemplaire of the National Medal of Yugoslavia for my own personal collection; one you know I sold for presentation to the Am. Num. Soc. Museum, which is where it ought to be, - it is fine and characteristic, worthy of its subject. Let me also say that I am greatly pleased in the two Zagreb medals I am buying, by the way you have represented the mother country as of greater size than ordinary, somewhat like the old Egyptian treatment of gods and pharaohs, only done with more restraint. It is a slow work getting interest started in medals, but it will be successful! With sincere regard and admiration for your work, believe me,

Very truly yours

William Chauncy Langdon

### **Pismo br. 23.**

**9. listopada 1926., Zagreb – I. Kerdić W. C. Langdonu.**

Zagreb, 9th October 1926

My dear Sir,

I have received your letter of the 5th ult. and thank you for your kind attention with which you have given me a new proof of the warm and great friendship with which you have honoured me long ago.

I am glad that you have taken over four of my medals, three for yourself and one for your friend, and am quite satisfied with the prices you have obtained.

I am really deeply obliged to you for your endeavours to get some more of my medals into the Numismatic Museum of New York, and would be extremely glad to hear that you have succeeded, as I would deem it a great honour to be represented in

one of the best American Museums in which one of my works has already thanks to you, found entrance.

Your fine, careful and original estimation of my works is giving me ample proof of your great ability and deep knowledge of this Branch of the art.

I have already the last time had the intention to ask you to send me your photograph, as I would like to know such a warm friend also by his face, when it is impossible for me to know him personally. I take the liberty of sending you my photograph enclosed.

You will be perhaps interested to know that I am doing in the last time a lot of applied art work especially candlesticks, lamps adorned with sculptures, and various goblets for sporting societies. I am sorry I have not yet the photos of all these articles, but as soon as I have them finished I shall send them on to you.

At the same time I am enclosing two photos of my recent medals and I think you will notice a quite new comprehension of the groupation of some elements.

I have already some time ago had the intention of asking you whether I could get through your assistance a larger order from some private person, for instance a portrait on the occasion of a jubilee, or from some Corporation a sign or something similar.

I am able to make these things out of a good photograph without the model sitting for the portrait. I think I could make it for half the price which is customary in America for this sort of work.

I am awaiting with pleasure your further news and remain

Yours sincerely,

### **Pismo br. 24.**

**19. ožujka 1927., New York – W. C. Langdon I. Kerdiću.**

William Chauncy Langdon / 195 Broadway / New York City

March 19, 1927

My dear Professor Kerdic,

I received your fine letter of February 8th and the photographs and two enclosures telling me about your life and about the medals. You have written me just the information I wanted to use in writing the article about you and your work for the Slavonic Review. I have now also received, just a few days ago, the two exemplaires of the medal of Dr. Kurt Huhn and four exemplaires of the Dobrovic medal. I thank you for them most heartily. I most gratefully accept the exemplaire of the Dr. Huhn you present to me and will see to it that the other is bought for the Museum of the American Numismatic Society. It is a noble piece of work, and is convincing as a portrait. I am now, as soon as I can take a little time off to give it proper attention, but certainly this summer, going to see what I can do to get art museums interested in medals and I shall use your Dobrovic in this. Mr. Gecan turned over to me four exemplaires that he had of it, so I now have eight of them! I can almost go into the Dobrovic medal business, can I not!

You said in your letter that you were presenting me as a gift a plaque and two medals. I understand that I am then to consider as my own the second exemplaire of the National Medal of Yugoslavia, and that the plaque is an exemplaire of the Slovenac Hrvati Srbin Narodnog Divadla. This has not yet arrived. In a short time I hope to have occasion to send you further payments. I shall write to you again soon but I did not want to seem discourteous and not acknowledging and thanking you for all the information you sent me and for the medals. I am indeed delighted with them! With sincere regard and with admiration for your work, believe me,

Very truly yours,

William Chauncy Langdon

### **Pismo br. 25.**

**24. ožujka 1927., New York – W. C. Langdon I. Kerdiću.**

William Chauncy Langdon / 195 Broadway / New York City

March 24, 1927

My dear Mr. Kerdic,

I have received the two exemplaires of the National Medal of Yugoslavia, 1918. What is the lowest price at which I may sell this medal? Or may I use my own judgment as to what I can fairly get? How many of these were struck all told? Is it a scarce medal? Was not some relative of yours coming over? I have not seen him. If he is coming, maybe he would bring some thing. The Customs officials charge duty relentlessly. With best wishes,

Very truly yours

W.C.Langdon

Prof. Ivo Kerdic, / Zagreb, Yugoslavia.

### **Pismo br. 26.**

**22. svibnja 1927., New York – W. C. Langdon I. Kerdiću.**

William Chauncy Langdon / 195 Broadway / New York City

May 22, 1927

My dear Professor Kerdic,

Before you receive this you will already have received the photograph of me which you asked me to send you. I have done so with great pleasure. My friends tell me it is an excellent likeness. I myself of course do not know, as I have never seen myself except when I was shaving and so did not notice what I looked like or when I deliberately looked into a mirror and was consequently somewhat self-conscious and not looking like myself.

I send you with this a money order for \$ 24.00 for medals sold: -

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National Medal of Yugoslavia, to Prof. Andrews,	\$ 15.00
Dr. Kurt Huhnu, to American Numismatic Society, for the Kerdić Coll.	4.00
The Jockey Club and the Pies Hrvata Sokols, 1912, medals, to myself	5.00

---

\$ 24.00

As there have been only 20 medals struck in bronze of the National Medal, I have told Professor Andrews he was most fortunate in getting it for \$ 15.00 and that I should not ask you to let me sell another for anything like so low a price. But he is a good man to have that piece. One of the Dobrovic medals I sent to an Art Museum for inspection, and it was lost in the mails or stolen; it was not received. --- It is very good of you to send me the plaquette. If it has not already been sent, may I suggest that you mark the package: - «Sample for Exhibition Purposes. No value. Not to be Opened by Customs before Delivery.» That will be correct, for I shall certainly exhibit it. With personal regard and best wishes, believe me.

Very truly yours,

W. C. Langdon

Certainly I will send you a copy of the article. It will probably come out next fall.

### **Pismo br. 27.**

**22. lipnja 1927., New York – W. C. Langdon I. Kerdiću.**

William Chauncy Langdon / 195 Broadway / New York City

July 22, 1927

My dear Friend,

I have received your kind letter of June 18th on July 5th and now on July 19th I have received the plaque of the congratulation of Yugoslavia to Czechoslovakia on the 50th anniversary of its National Theatre. I never once dreamed that you were going to give me a full size exemplaire of it; I expected a small one. You are too generous. I thank you most heartily and assure you I most sincerely appreciate it. I am of course familiar with it from the photographs I have of it and from the bronze exemplaire we have in the Museum of the Society. It grows and grows on me. It is a masterpiece. I think it is correct that you have applied the medallion principles to the square or rectangular form, or rather applied corresponding principles. I am very grateful to you for it. Meanwhile my article about you goes well; I expect to send it to the editor in a week or so. I hope he will find it worthy of its subject and of the review. I am doing my best anyway. Incidentally, the plaque came through to me without my having to pay any duty at all. Thank you for remembering about the magic words!

It is a decided honour you are proposing, to make a medal of me. I greatly value your thought and desire. I wish it were possible for you to do it from life! For you to attempt it merely from a photograph would be working at such a serious disadvantage. Let us defer it for a year or so! Who knows, one of us may be crossing the ocean, and then it would be possible. I know how great an expense it would be to make a medal

and there would be no sale for it over here except such as your own fine art would create, for I am not known here at all. If you could do it later, from life, then you would have a fair opportunity for your art and the result would be sure to do you justice. For me to let you do it from photographs would be for me to tie your hands and then say, «Now, my kind friend, let us see what you can make of me?» As far as sending you a profile picture of myself, I should be glad to have one taken for the purpose, if I knew which profile you preferred. In any event, I assure you, I cordially appreciate your thought and you desire to do this not merely as an honor from so fine artist but as a hearty hand-clasp from a true friend.

You say you are working diligently for the exhibition in December at the meeting of the American Historical Association in Washington. What are you doing? I expect to be able to show your medals and I have exemplaires of those. Have you more medals in the making which will be finished by that time, so that I may have exemplaires of those also to add to the exhibition? If so, fine!!! Now, adieu once more; and again my sincere thanks! With cordial admiration and regard, believe me,

Very truly yours

William Chauncy Langdon

Professor Ivo Kerdić / Ilica, 85, / Zagreb, Yugoslavia

Can you tell me? Is there any really any good medallic artist in Rumania or in Bulgaria? I have been unable to find any. Please let me know if any with whom you are acquainted, and of whom I ought to know!

### **Pismo br. 28.**

**srpanj 1927., (?), Zagreb – I. Kerdić W. C. Langdonu.**

Cijenjeni prijatelju,

Vaš list of Julia 22, te dolara 24 od 16/VII 1927 primio sam sa veseljem i lijepo vam se zahvaljujem. Molim da mi izvinete, da vam nisam odmah potvrdio primitak novca za to vrijeme bio sam odsutan iz Zagreba.

Veseli me da ste u posjedu Plakete Divadla za koju sam se bojao da će zaostati pa kada ste ju primili bez carine tim bolje. Vaša primjedba za točnu fotografiju daje mi je mogućnost da je objasnim. Naravno da bi ja bio osobito zadovoljan (kada bi mi se ta mogućnost pružila Vas po naravi da modeliram, jer bi to bio name jedan doživljaj vaš blagi i otmeni izraz lica studiram što je po fotografiji uvijek nezahvalno i skoro rekavši neiskreno, jer onda mogu dati sebe. Vi doduše to odgađate ali dajete malu mogućnost dok jedan od nas ne pređe a možda i preleti ocean, jer Lindenber nam je dao nadu da će to uslijediti pa kako vi mislite možda i do godine. Ja bi bio spreman da ovaj put pređem u Ameriku jer prvi kada bi bilo moguće, da me vi pozovete, i osigurate jednu ili dve naručbe koje bi mi materialno osigurale neko vrijeme da mogu raditi i živjeti. Medalju Lindbergu ja bi bio osobito čašćen i sa velikim veseljem ovakovu medalju napravio. Ne samo kao medailleur nego kao cizeler i graver mogao bi kod vas se ... imajući vaše ... umjetnosti i mogućnosti materialne koje ovde kod nas u Europi nestaju a po gotovo u ovom mojoj maloj domovini.

Moja vlada dala bi mi rado godinu dana dopusta kada bi se ovakav poziv uslijedio.

Ja se nadam da ako nebude išlo da ja prvi pređem to će me veseliti da vi pređete knama u Europu i dođete u moju lijepu domovinu pa da ja ovdje svršim vašu medalju koju neću prodati.

Šaljem vam fotografije nekih novih radova i nadam se da ću vam ih nekoliko moći i poslati 3 nove medalje i dvije plakete.

Za nedaljere Rumunske kao Bugarske sam prvo pitao jer u obima kraljevinama nema nego nekoliko kipara.

Sa osobitim ...

Vaš prijatelj

Ivo Kerdić

### **Pismo br. 29.**

**7. kolovoza 1927., New York – W. C. Langdon I. Kerdiću.**

William Chauncy Langdon / 195 Broadway / New York City

August 7, 1927

Professor Ivo Kerdic / Ilica, 85, / Zagreb, Jugoslavia.

My dear Professor Kerdic,

One of the editors of the Slavonic Review is coming to New York this coming Friday and I am expecting him to come in to see me. I shall show him the article on your medallic work at that time. So you see things are really moving with it. In that connection, and for the exhibition of your work at the meeting of the American Historical Association in Washington, - can I get an exemplaire of the portrait of Nina Vavra? **(Slika 3)** I admire it most sincerely and I am specially speaking of it in the article. It is a remarkable piece of portraiture. I should like to be able to show it at the exhibition, as the historians will have read about it in the article and as I am going to urge that it be one of the illustrations. You say it was ordered by the Association of Actors for her 25th anniversary. I earnestly hope they will consent to your sending me a copy for this purpose. If it may be bought, please tell me the price of it, as I should like very much to have it myself, and should also want to see if I could not get the American Numismatic Society to buy one. If it is possible, I trust you will send an exemplaire along to me.

I have here two exemplaires of the King Tomislav medal, - one large, in etain, about 75 mm in size, or more; the other small, in bronze, about 25 mm. What is the price for each, if you please, in case there be opportunity to sell?

Will you kindly tell me the denomination and date of the Bulgarian coins which you designed, of which you wrote to me? I shall want to exhibit them probably at Washington, if I can get them. I may be able to borrow them from the Society's Museum, or get them from some coin dealer here in New York.

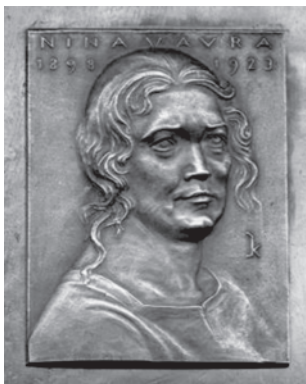
Be sure to tell me of any new medals you are making, and send me exemplaires of them, if you can, or certainly photographs of them! The Story may as well be up to



date, up to the minute! With sincere regard and all best wishes, and with the hope that this article may be successful in spreading a knowledge and interest in your fine art, believe me,

Very truly yours

William Chauncy Langdon



*Slika 3. Medalja Vavra (AMZ)*

### **Pismo br. 30.**

**16. kolovoza 1927., New York – W. C. Langdon I. Kerdiću.**

William Chauncy Langdon / 195 Broadway / New York City

August 16, 1927

Professor Ivo Kerdić / Ilica, 85, / Zagreb, Jugoslavia.

My dear Professor Kerdić,

I have finished writing the article about your work. Mr. and Mrs. Gecan kindly came down to my office the other evening and I read it to them; we talked it over and they gave me some information. The next day the American editor of the SLAVONIC REVIEW came in and I showed it to him. He likes it and will forward it to the two other editors in London. He thinks it will be accepted. I hope so. There are however a few more questions I should like to ask you. It may be that I shall have time to insert some of them before the article is printed; others I should like to know for my own satisfaction and interest. I will number the questions; will you please number your answers in the same way?

1. What year was it you went to Paris, when you studied with Roty?
2. What year was it you went to Vienna, after your father's death?
3. Is the Gillar Bronze Foundry the correct name of the place you worked and where you became foreman? If not, what was it?
4. What was the name of the figure you executed, that stood opposite the Stock im Eisen in Vienna? Who was the artist of it?

5. What are the first names of the professors you studied with in Vienna? Rudolph Mayer? Stephan Schwarz? Rudolph Marschall?

6. What year was it you were called for military service in the Austrian army, while you were at Vienna, and after which you studied with Professor Marschall?

7. What year did you make the coins for Bulgaria? What denominations were they?

8. What is the date of the Jockey Club medal? Where is the Club, - Zagreb?

9. How old was Neda in 1916, when you made the medal of her?

10. Can you tell me any more about Dobrovic's escape from death? Do I understand correctly he is now in Paris? What is his address now?

I shall gratefully appreciate it if you will please let me have answers to these questions at your early convenience. With sincere regard and best wishes, believe me,

Very truly yours,

William Chauncy Langdon

### **Pismo br. 31.**

**12. listopada 1927., New York – W. C. Langdon I. Kerdiću.**

William Chauncy Langdon /195 Broadway / New York City

October 12, 1927

Prof. Ivo Kerdić, / Ilica, 85, / Zagreb, Jugoslavia.

My dear Friend,

I have received your two letters of August 20th and of September 17th. The manuscript of my article about your work has gone to London, to the editors. But I have at once today gone over my copy of the article and made all necessary or desirable corrections and additions, and I have written to the editors explicitly about them all. Therefore I trust all will be as we should wish! Thank you very sincerely for sending me the answers to my questions. I am sorry you have been sick, and trust you are now quite well again.

I fear there would be little opportunity here to encourage you to come to America. We have some fine medallic artists, but it is quite impossible for them to make a living from their medallic work. They all do it incidentally, on the side. I hope to do a little help to create a market here for medals, but it is a slow work, very slow work.

I hope I have not seemed unappreciative of your desire to make a medal of me. It would please me greatly. If you care to do it, I shall gladly send you some photographs. In a few days I will have a couple taken specially to enable you to study the formation of my head. So that if you undertake it from photographs, it may be from several photographs, not from only one. The other day, as I was walking along the street I saw a new machine called the Photomaton. You sit down, put a 25c coin in the slot and at intervals turn the head. Here are the results! But in a short time I will send you some real photographs. Some of my family say these are good; some that they are awful.

Whether good or bad, I send them to you for the fun of the thing! With sincere regard and admiration for your work, believe me,

Very truly yours,

William Chauncy Langdon

**Pismo br. 32.**

**7. ožujka 1928., New York – W. C. Langdon I. Kerdiću.**

William Chauncy Langdon / 195 Broadway / New York City

March 7, 1928

My dear Professor Kerdic,

I have today received a letter from Sir Bernard Pares of the SLAVONIC REVIEW that my article about you and your medallic work will be printed in the summer number of that review. It is not practicable for them to use the photographs as the Review is not illustrated, but I have a new plan, which I trust will be successful, for printing them in another periodical, an art magazine, at about the same time with a short article about them by another writer. I will let you know later about it. With best wishes, believe me

Very truly yours

William Chauncy Langdon

The Nana Vivra has not yet arrived.

**Pismo br. 33.**

**30. studenoga 1928., New York – W. C. Langdon I. Kerdiću.**

William Chauncy Langdon / 195 Broadway / New York City

November 30, 1928

My dear Friend,

I have received a letter from Monsieur Jean Babelon telling me why my little article about you and your medallic work did not appear in the July number of ARETHUSE. He was in Egypt and so my letter and the article were saved for him until his return. He says it will be printed in the January, 1929, number. My best greetings and cordial regard to you

Very truly yours

William Chauncy Langdon

Professor Ivo Kerdic

Ilica, 85,

Zagreb, Jugoslavia.

**Pismo br. 34.**

**prosina 1928., New York – W. C. Langdon I. Kerdiću.**

With hearty good wishes for a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year

To my friend Ivo Kerdić of Jugoslavia from William Chauncy Langdon

### **Pismo br. 35.**

**7. siječnja 1931., Zagreb – I. Kerdić W. C. Langdonu.**

January 7th, 1931.

My dear friend!

After my long silence let me wish you good health and good luck in the New Year and let me thank you for your kind congratulation.

The reasons for my long silence were various ones. I had much trouble and suffering caused by grave disease of my brothers and sister. It weighed heavily upon my soul. Due to all this trouble I neglected you too, my dear friend.

Will you kindly excuse my not having answered your letter? Believe me that I have been thinking of your dear self many a time. I am sure that you will understand and forgive!

The struggle for existence was great for some time past and did not permit me to create new pieces of art you might care for. Loaded with orders which help me to earn my daily bread I lose much of my creative powers; there are, however, one or two medals I managed to execute.

I beg to send you some photos and my friend the painter Gundrum, who left some days ago for America, will send you the medals.

He took along the following medals and plaques:

The one of Radić you wished and your own portrait, the medal representing professor Becić, master of painting at our Academy and one of the greatest artist in Yougoslavia; he is besides my closer compatriot.

The news that we have at least received the permission to found a Numismatic Society will no doubt interest you.

There are, so far, 80 members, executing their duties. Chairman is Mr. Horvat, a first class expert, whom I had already mentioned to you. He is going to give you an account of our work. I am also in the committee. Knowing that it was your own wish to found this Numismatic Society here, I am sure that you will support it and become one of its members.

Wishing you, once more, a healthy New Year, I remain,

Your very sincerely,

### **Pismo br. 36.**

**13. siječnja 1937., New York – Vera Milčinović I. Kerdiću.**

January 13. 1937

Dragi gosp. Iva Kerdić,

Pred par dana sam stigla ovamo u New York i jučer pošla da potražim Vašeg prijatelja William Chauncy Langdona. Ali adresa: Broadway 175 je kriva i tako ga nisam našla da mu predam plakete. Mora da ste se zabunili u adresi – pak Vas molim da mi

javite pravu, - pak ću onda otići da odnesem pozdrave Mr. Langdonu. U Americi nema prijavnog ureda, i tako nema nikakove mogućnosti da se čovjeka pronađe. –

Mama i Deša ljepo pozdravljaju a isto tako i ja, pak se javite skoro.

Sve dobro želi

Čuča Milčinović

Odgovorio 26/I/37

Draga Vera,...

Vaš Prof. I.K.

### **Pismo br. 37.**

**10. veljače 1937., Zagreb – I. Kerdić Veri Milčinović.**

Zagreb 10. februara 1937

Draga Vera,

Primio sam Vaše pismo od prošlog mjeseca, pa mi je veoma žao što Vam nisam dao točnu adresu mog prijatelja William Chauncy Langdona, pa ga stoga niste mogli naći.

Njegova točna adresa je: 195 BROADWAY, pa Vas molim da budete ljubezni da ga posjetite i da mu predate moje medalje i plakete.

Uz srdačan pozdrav

Vaš

### **Pismo br. 38.**

**25. veljače 1937., Bronxville – W. C. Langdon I. Kerdiću.**

William Chauncy Langdon / 16 Studio Arcade / Bronxville, New York

February 25, 1937

Professor Ivo Kerdic, / 85, Ilica, / Zagreb, Jugoslavia.

My dear friend,

I certainly owe you an apology for the long delay in sending your payment for the last medals I received from you, and I am truly very sorry for it. I was retired from my position in the American Telephone & Telegraph Company on account of age last fall. So I am now working at home. Will you please notice the change of address and write to me there? I am doing some writing for a publisher which is very interesting indeed. But it is confusing, this moving and this getting everything into small space for the sake of economy! However, I must not trouble you with my petty inconveniences!

I am sending you today payment by international money order for the 2 exemplaires of the 2 last medals, - \$ 18.00 (\$ 5.00 each for those that have gone to the American Numismatic Museum for the Ivo Kerdic Collection there, and \$ 4.00 each for those that I have in my personal collection, with appreciation of the reduction you have kindly allowed me).

I do not know the correct name for these 2 medals. Will you please tell me? The one has the initials M H K D on one side; and the other has the inscription QUIQUERAN BEAJEAU MCMXXXV. I should like to know for my own catalogue and also for the Am. Num. Soc. Catalogue.

Now with great regret I must say that you should not send me any more medals. Since my retirement, until I get established in new work, I must discontinue every expenditure that I can. I assure you it is not at all from any lack of continued enthusiasm for your work. By no means! I want to make one exception. You wrote me once, I remember, that you had sent me and exemplaire of your medal of King Alexander that you made as a memorial to him. It never reached me. It never came. If you can send me one of this medal I shall be very grateful to you; I am very anxious to see and to have a copy of that medal! It will be a fine and an appropriate medal with which to close, if I must, my collecting of your beautiful, characterful work!

I trust you and your wife and all your family are strong and well! Do you see Vilko Gecan once in a while? Will you give him and his delightful wife my best regards? I shall be glad if they remember me. Now, with very cordial regards to you and with sincere admiration of your work, believe me as always,

Very truly yours

William Chauncy Langdon

#### **Pismo br. 39.**

**9. ožujka 1937., Bronxville – W. C. Langdon Veri Milčinović.**

William Chauncy Langdon / 16 Studio Arcade / Bronxville, New York

March 9, 1937

Miss Vera Milčinović / 168 West 58th Street / New York City

My dear Miss Milčinović,

It was very kind of you to bring the medals over to me from Professor Kerdić. I gratefully appreciate it. Miss Anne Rolichcheck, - who also maybe she told you is a Slav, handed them to me safely and in fine condition. She said you have some information to give me about them, for which you took the trouble of going downtown to the Am. Tel. & Tel. Building. It will give me great pleasure to call on you sometime before long when I am in town to hear about my friend, Ivo Kerdić, and the work he is now doing, and to meet you and your mother. I cannot say just when I can come, but I will telephone to you first. With sincere appreciation of your courtesy and assistance in the matter of these medals, I am truly yours, William Chauncy Langdon

#### **Pismo br. 40.**

**9. ožujka 1937., Bronxville – W. C. Langdon I. Kerdiću.**

William Chauncy Langdon / 16 Studio Arcade / Bronxville, New York

March 9, 1937



My dear friend,

A few days ago I received the 3 medals that Miss Vera Milčinović kindly brought over to me from you, - the two of Alexander I, and the one of your niece, Mlle. Pilar. I cannot tell you adequately how fine I feel this Memorial of the King is! It is simple; it is strong; it is sympathetic; it is convincing as to its being a good likeness. The head alone, no inscription, no crown, the brief statement of the portrait of the man himself: it is a great medal! And the reverse, with the Cathedral of Belgrade, I suppose, the place of coronation, (?) and the crossed palm branches, - it is very fine indeed! I am glad to have it. I want to keep both exemplaires for my own collection so as to display them, obverse and reverse, side by side in a central position among my Ivo Kerdić Medals! The medal of Mlle. Pilar seems to be a beautiful work too, throughly Slav, which is evident I do not know whether because she is Slav or because the artist is Slav, or because both are Slav. It is a blending of technique and of subject which is eminently right and proper. I am delighted to have it!

I did not see Miss Milčinović and her mother when they brought the medals to the American Telephone Historical Library at 195 Broadway, because of having retired. But they were received in good Slav style by Miss Anne Rolichcheck, who used to be my secretary and one of my assistants there, and she gave them to me. Miss Rolichcheck is a Czechoslovak. She welcomed Miss Milčinović and I think they quickly became good friends. I will soon call on Miss Milčinović and her mother and thank them and hear word of you. With cordial regard and appreciation, believe me always,

Very truly yours

William Chauncy Langdon

### **Pismo br. 41.**

**10. ožujka 1937., New York – Vera Milčinović I. Kerdiću.**

New York, March 10.1937

Dragi gosp. Kerdić,

Dobila sam Vaše pismo i odnela plakete Mr. Langdonu. Danas sam ipak dobila njegovo pismo pak Vam ga šaljem da vidite da je sve sretno stiglo u prave ruke. Mr. Langdon kako vidite ne živi više stalno u New Yorku, no kad nam se bude javio i kad se budemo s njim našli pisala budem Vam o njemu.

A kaj ima novoga u Zagrebu, i imadete li mnogo posla? Mi smo ovde u velikom poslu, ja putujem skoro u Kaliforniju na gostovanje pa je naravski opet velikih priprema. Veselim se ali mnogo na taj put, Kalifornija je vanredno lijepa, osobito je ugodna klima.

Neznam dali sam u prošlom pismu spomenula da su se mama i Deša jako veselile na onu lijepu plaketu «Ples Hrvata» i tko god dodje k nama divi se, a nama je drago da se možemo pohvaliti s našom umjetnošću.

Molim lijepo pozdravite Vašu gospođu i bebu od nas svih tri, a Vama želi sve dobro

Čuča

**Pismo br. 42.**

**17. ožujka 1937., Zagreb – I. Kerdić Veri Milčinović.**

Zagreb 17. marta 1937

Draga Vera,

Pred par dana dobio sam pismo od mog prijatelja William Chauncy Langdona iz New Yorka (kojemu ste Vi nosili medalje i plakete), da je promjenio stan i da sada stanuje na ovoj adresi:

16 Studio Arcade, Bronxville, New York

pa Vas molim da budete ljubezni pa da ga potražite na toj novoj adresi, ako niste u međjuvremenu već došli s njime u vezu.

Zahvaljujem Vam na ljubeznosti,

uz srdačan pozdrav,

**Pismo br. 43.**

**2. travnja 1937., Zagreb – I. Kerdić Veri Milčinović.**

Zagreb 2. aprila 1937

Draga Vera,

Primio sam Vaše pismo od 10. pr. mj. zajedno sa pismom mog prijatelja William Chauncy Langdon, pa Vam srdačno zahvaljujem na usluzi.

Drago mi je da Vam dobro ide i nadam se da ćete se proslaviti.

Uz srdačan pozdrav,

Vaš odani,

Miss Vera Milčinović / 168 West 58 Street, New York City, U.S.A.

**Pismo br. 44.**

**12. srpnja 1937., Zagreb – I. Kerdić W. C. Langdonu.**

Zagreb 12th July 1937

William Chauncy Langdon Esq., / 16 Studio Arcade / Bronxville, New York.

My dear friend,

I am much obliged for your very kind letters of 25th February and 9th March to which I could not reply earlier as I was very busy. Now the school is over and I find time to reply to you. I read with much interest contents of your letters and although on one side I am sorry to hear that you have retired from your position and have to live now somewhat more modestly for the sake of economy, on the other hand I am en(v)ying you for the spare time which you will now be able to fully enjoy and only hope that you will pass it in good health and strength.

I beg to thank you for your kind remittance of \$ 18.- by international money order, which reached me safely. I am glad that you like the medals which Miss Milčinović

has brought you. As regards the church on the reverse of the Kings medal I would like to say that it does not represent the Cathedral of Belgrade, but the church of Oplenac, i.e. the place in Serbia where the kings are usually buried.

All medals which I have sent you through courtesy of Miss Milčinović are my gift to you for your collection of my works, and you have not to pay for them. Likewise I will send you also in future copies of my medals. I am sure you will allow me to do this little favour as my old friend.

I am leaving this week for Holly Land with a group of 50 Croates including the Archbishop of Zagreb. I have made an altar for the Croatian chappel in Betlehem with a bronze relief of the Croatian Martyrer Beat. Tavelić, which altar will now be consecrated in the presence of Croats. I am indeed very glad to be able to make such a nice voyage which will lead us to Greece, Egypt and Palestine and hope to enjoy the pleasure trip on the Mediterranean and have a good time.

I have shown your letters to Mr. and Mrs. Gecan, who sincerely reciprocate your kind regards. He is often speaking of nice times spent in U.S.A. and remembers well all his good friends there.

Hoping that this letter will find you in the best of health as it leaves me, I beg to remain, my dear Friend, with kindest regards

Yours sincerely,

#### **Pismo br. 45.**

##### **11. kolovoza 1937., Bronxville – W. C. Langdon I. Kerdiću.**

William Chauncy Langdon / 16 Studio Arcade / Bronxville, New York

August 11, 1937

Professor Ivo Kerdić, / 85, Ilica / Zagreb, Jugoslavia.

My dear Friend,

It was as always a great pleasure to receive your letter of July 12th, and I acknowledge with sincere gratitude your generous gift of the medals. The memorial medal of King Alexander has something of the monumental in its simplicity! It is indeed an achievement, and I am more than glad and proud to have it.

It may be that you will not be in Zagreb when this letter arrived. However, it will be awaiting you on your return from the Holy Land. You are indeed blessed to have had this opportunity to place a work of art of your own in Bethlehem, and to see it dedicated in the sympathetic fellow-Croatians! Do you know of the Great Chalice of Antioch? It is a very simple silver cup, enclosed in a very beautiful and elaborate cup designed by a master silversmith of Antioch of grapevines and portraits of Jesus the Christ and a number of Apostles. Since the time of Julian the Apostate it was lost until 1910, when it was dug up on the site of Antioch. I have seen it, and have studied the historical evidence of its authenticity and am convinced. The outer cup was made within the lifetime of those who had seen the Christ and the Apostles. It is now here in New York, in the possession of a close friend of mine, a Syrian gentleman, Fahim Kouchakji. He says

he is the Guardian of the Chalice; he will not use the word «owner». He is planning to put it where it will be forever safe, so far as that can be assured. On your return from Bethlehem, from Egypt and Greece, I hope to hear from you again of a truly glorious grip. With continued appreciation and admiration of your work and sincere gratitude for your generous gift of these fine medals, believe me always

Very truly your friend.

William Chauncy Langdon

### **Pismo br. 46.**

**9. kolovoza 1939., Zagreb – I. Kerdić W. C. Langdonu.**

Zagreb 9th August, 1939.

William Chauncy Langdon, / 16 Studio Arcade, / Bronxville, New York.

My dear friend,

After a long silence I felt the necessity of writing to you again, with the sole intention to hear how you are living and what are you doing.

I was ill for a long time on inflammation of the lungs and after having recovered I was occupied with my work. I would like to know whether you are still interested in medals. If you, I will send you with please a few examples of my recent works.

Hoping that this letter will find you in the best of health, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

### **Pismo br. 47.**

**23. kolovoza 1939., Bronxville – W. C. Langdon I. Kerdiću.**

William Chauncy Langdon / 16 Studio Arcade / Bronxville, New York

August 23, 1939

My dear Friend, Ivo Kerdić,

It is a great pleasure to hear from you! It is a joy! I am truly sorry for your long illness and trust you are quite well again, strong and able to do your remarkable work once more. Yes indeed I am still interested in Medals! But I have not been able to collect many recently. But there is a little incident I must tell you. A couple of weeks ago I was over at the World's Fair. So I went to the Yugoslav Pavilion, and asked if they had any of the Medals of Ivo Kerdić on exhibition there. No, they had not; the very pleasant young man I was talking explained that it has been the practical thing to decide to exhibit only folk, agricultural and industrial aspects of the national life and not to exhibit art at all. I remarked that you were without question one of the finest medallic artist in the world, in the medallic art far beyond M. Mestrovic. I hoped that this disparaging remark about Mestrovic would not give offence, as in architectural sculpture he was unquestionably great. The young man smiled and said I had given no offence at all, that he knew you, and that you were, I understood, related! So I felt I had not

started any war. It had been my intention to offer to lend my collection of your medals to the Yugoslav Pavilion for exhibition during the duration of the Fair, as I had to the Czechoslovak Pavilion the collection I have of Ottokar Španiel's medallic work. But their policy precludes the offer. I shall be more than grateful and glad to receive some representation of your recent work. I know it is exceptionally fine! - - - Before I forget, the young man's name is Srdjan Krizman, by profession an architect, Secretary to the Yugoslav Royal Commissar at the New York World's Fair. I hope to see him again sometime. But thus I have not been able to get over to the Fair as often as I hoped. I have some writing to do, and it has been insufferably hot. Somehow I do not enjoy writing in hot weather, 90° and 96° in the shade!

I am much interested in our local library here, the Bronxville Public Library. Bronxville used to be, 30 or 40 years ago a unique village, and a real village. Now with the great expansion and natural growth of New York, it is quite in danger of being swallowed up in the great city. Of course, the village life must meet the modern conditions of growing, but the contribution it can make and should make to New York City is a localized quality of its old village life. That is a difficult problem for some of us who have lived here some time and are still tolerably fixed in this human whirlpool. How to preserve the Village without killing all the progressive and alive in it! To the point: - this Bronxville Public Library of course is quite literally being smothered. But we hope - in some way - that we may have a new and adequate Library building within a year or two at most. When it comes, it will undoubtedly have an exhibition room of good but not beyond-intimate size, where we can show from time to time the art that is being done far as well as near. An idea of the medallic art of Jugoslavia, which has a certain quality that the art of no other region has, so war as I have seen,! An idea of the art of Czechoslovakia, and their interrelation, as instanced in that plaque Slovenac Hrvati Srbin, - and so forth. You see what I have in mind! In this way my collection of Medals could be of use to my neighbors, to New York, to friends on both sides of the salt water, in a moderate but worth while service as art. It is a dream, - but it is too hot these days to do anything more strenuous! My most cordial regard to you, dear Friend, and to all your family. Where is Vilko Gecan now, Pictor et Viator? My best to him and his wife!

Cordially yours always

William Chauncy Langdon

#### **Pismo br. 48.**

**7. ožujka 1940., Zagreb – I. Kerdić W. C. Langdonu.**

Prof. Ivo Kerdić / Zagreb / Ilica 85.

Zagreb March 7, 1940.

William Chauncy Langdon Esq., / 16 Studio Arcade, / Bronxville, New York

My dear friend,

I am afraid that I did not write since I received your kind letter of August 23rd last. The reason for this delay was the outbreak of this terrible war, which is threatening to

destroy the civilisation and culture of the whole world. You Americans and we Yugoslavs are not yet, thanks God, inflicted in this struggle, but we, who live in the dangerous vicinity, are very much afraid of all eventualities which may still occur. You know very well that «inter arma silent Muses», and I fear that this will prove again.

In order to give you a sign that I am still alive, although physically depressed, I have sent you in separate parcel one of my latest medals relating to the «Congress for the history of Medicine» held in Zagreb in 1938.

Av. Portrait of the Greek physician HIPPOKRATES in the centre with inscription: HISTORIA MAGISTRA VITAE;

Rs. Woman sitting, holding in the right hand a little table with inscription ZAGREB 1938. Around inscription «KONGRES ZA HISTORIJU MEDICINE».

Please confirm safe receipt of this medal and I will send you then a medal which I have recently finished i.e. on the President of the Croatian Peasant Party Dr. Vlatko Maček, our leader, whose merit it was that Croatia has at last gained some liberty.

Your idea of having an exhibition room in the new Library building where you can show from time to time the works of your own and foreign artists is certainly an excellent one, and I really admire your activity and willingness for all that what is connection with art.

With kindest regards, I remain always your old friend

P.S. Mr. Gecan is O.K., and sends also kind regards. He regrets that he is not now in America.

Medalja poslana!

### **Pismo br. 49.**

**31. ožujka 1940., Bronxville – W. C. Langdon I. Kerdiću.**

William Chauncy Langdon / 16 Studio Arcade / Bronxville, New York

March 31, 1940

Professor Ivo Kerdic, / Ilica 85, / Zagreb, Yugoslavia.

My dear Friend,

I was delighted to receive your letter of March 7th day before yesterday, March 29th and glad to know that so far all is well with you. I shall receive the new medal with joy and gratitude; and I will certainly write to you in acknowledgement as soon as it arrives. I have been invited to the annual dinner of the Westchester County Coin Club on April 16th. Each one presenter is asked to bring three coins or medals from his collection to show to others. If the new medal comes in time, I am thinking of taking your great Medal of Yugoslavia, your Dobrovic, possibly your medal of me (if it would not be too proud) and the new one. My cordial regards to Vilko Gecan and to you and all yours!

Heartily yours

William Chauncy Langdon



### **Pismo br. 50.**

**2. svibnja 1940., Bronxville – W. C. Langdon I. Kerdiću.**

William Chauncy Langdon / 16 Studio Arcade / Bronxville, New York

May 2, 1940

Professor Ivo Kerdić, / 85, Ilica, / Zagreb, Jugoslavia.

My dear Friend,

The fine exemplaire of your Medal for XI Kongres za Historiu Medicine reached me safely, and it seems to me in view of the conditions resulting from the war quite speedily, two days ago, on April 30th. It is indeed a fine dignified piece of work, worthy of the occasion! I thank you for it heartily! I watch steadily the news from Jugoslavia and hope that you may be able to continue in peace. But I must not delay in telling you of the receipt of the medal, but acknowledge it promptly as you requested. My heartiest thanks and congratulations! With cordial regards, believe me always,

Very truly your friend

William Chauncy Langdon

My regards also to Mr. Vilko Gecan!

### **Pismo br. 51.**

**prosinac 1945., Westport – W. C. Langdon I. Kerdiću.**

To Ivo Kerdić & his family with all good wishes. - + to Vilko Gecan too! –

Christmas and its Angels singing in our hearts!

There the Christmas story in our childhood starts!

There the Christmas Carols year by year still sing,

And the Christmas Church-Bells through the snow-flakes ring!

Listen to the singing in your deepest dreams!

See through darkest trouble Heaven's golden gleams!

Hark! The silver echoes in your heards again! –

Peace on All the Earth! Good Will to All! – Amen.

1945. W.C.L.

### **Pismo br. 52.**

**22. ožujka 1945., Zagreb – I. Kerdić W. C. Langdonu (koncept).**

Zagreb ...

Moj dragi prijatelju,

Sa velikim veseljem primio sam Vašu božićnu kartu, te Vam se zahvaljujem na Vašem ljubeznom sjećanju. Lijepa božićna pjesma izraz je Vaše osjećajnosti koju bi trebali imati narodi svih zemalja, pa bi onda na zemlji bilo bolje.

Prošao sam ovaj strašan rat sa mnogo boli. Izgubio sam moju stariju kćerku Vidu, umjetnicu na glasoviru, koja je tragično umrla, prije nego je stekla slavu. Ja sam bio nekoliko puta u smrtnoj opasnosti.

Dugi rat je svršen pa će valjda čovječanstvo sa dosada stečenim iskustvima prestati ratovati!

Još sam uvijek profesor na Umjetničkoj akademiji u Zagrebu. Bio bih veoma veseo ako biste mi javili vijesti na medaljerskom polju u Americi. Čim se otvori promet ja ću Vam poslati medalju izradjenu u vezi sa mojom 60 godišnjicom života. Ja sam izradio original, a moj učenik Krivak ju je gravirao.

Sa srdačnim pozdravima,

### **Pismo br. 53.**

#### **22. ožujka 1945., Zagreb – I. Kerdić W. C. Langdonu (prijevod).**

William Chauncy Langdon, Esq. / Roseville Road / Westport, Connecticut, / U.S.A.

Zagreb 22nd March 1946.

My dear friend,

With great pleasure I have received your Christmas Card and thank you for your kind remembrance. The beautiful Christmas poem is an expression of your feelings, which should have the nations of all countries, and then it would be better on the earth.

I have passed this dreadful war with much pain. I lost my elder daughter Vida, piano-player, who tragically died before she could gain the glory. I myself was several times at the point of death.

The long war has finished and probably all nations, with up to date experiences, would cease to combat.

I am still Professor on the Academy of Arts in ZAGREB. I would be very glad if you will kindly let me know news on the medallic field in America. As soon as the traffic reopens I will send you a medal made in connection with my 60-years jubilee. I made the original, and my pupil Krivak engraved it.

With cordial greetings,

Your Prof. I Kerdić

### **Pismo br. 54.**

#### **14. travnja 1946., Westport – W. C. Langdon I. Kerdiću.**

My dear friend,

I have your letter of 19th March, thank God for the news! This inscription is being placed with some flowers among the flowers on the Altar in our Church for the Easter Services. The Blessing of God on you all! Will write later.

Cordially William Chauncy Langdon  
April 14, 1946.  
(Recto:)  
In Memory of VIDA KERIC of ZAGREB  
Pianist and War-Victim  
And Thanks for the Survival of her Father  
IVO KERIC of JUGOSLAVIA  
Sculptor and Patriot  
Who was several times at the point of death  
Easter, 1946  
The Church of Christ and the Holy Trinity  
Westport, Connecticut, U.S.A.»

**Pismo br. 55.**

**14. travnja 1946., Westport – W. C. Langdon I. Kerdiću.**

(listić)

Easter. Christ and Holy Trinity Church, Westport, Connecticut, April 21st 1946

...

In Memory of Vida Keric of Zagreb  
Pianist and War-Victim  
And Thanks for the Survival of her Father  
Ivo Keric of Jugoslavia  
Sculptor and Patriot  
Who was a several times at the point of death

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**Pismo br. 56.**

**20. kolovoza 1946., Zagreb – I. Kerdić W. C. Langdonu.**

Zagreb 20 8. 1946

PREVOD

Moj dragi prijatelju,

Primio sam Vaš list i Vašu dopisnicu sa velikom radošću. Vrlo sam bio dirnut sa Vašom plemenitom pažnjom za uspomenu na moju pokojnu kćerku Vidu, te Vam zahvaljujem iz sveg srca za Vaše saučešće.

Spomenuo sam u mom posljednjem pismu da bih htio doći u vezu sa Numizmatičkim društvom u New Yorku da mogu uzeti učešća u njihovom umjetničkom radu u

kojem sam zainteresiran i dobiti neki mali pregled o radovima američkih medaljera. Poslati ću Vam obećanu medalju čim to bude moguće. Želim Vam najbolje zdravlje, te ostajem sa srdačnim pozdravima

Vaš iskreni,

### **Pismo br. 57.**

**20. kolovoza 1946., Zagreb – I. Kerdić W. C. Langdonu (prijevod).**

Zagreb 20th August 1946.

William Chauncy Langdon Esq. / Roseville Road, / Westport, Connecticut.

My dear friend,

I have received your letter and also your post-card with great pleasure. I am very affected with your gentle attention to the memory of my late daughter Vida and thank you for your condolence out of my full heart.

I mentioned in my last yetter that I would like to have connections with the Numismatic Society in New York with a view to take part in their labour in which I am interested, and to obtain a little survey of the works of American medalers. I will send you the medal promised as soon as possible. I wish you the best of hea(l)th, and remain with kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

### **Pismo br. 58.**

**26. rujna 1946., Westport – W. C. Langdon I. Kerdiću.**

William Chauncy Langdon / Roseville Road / Wesport, Connecticut

September 26, 1946

My dear Friend, Ivo Kerdić of Yugoslavia,

I was delighted yesterday to receive your letter of the 20th of August. I gather from that letter that you are again in a position at the Akademija and are working. My affectionate regard to all your family! Do you nowadays ever see Vilko Gecan, whom I knew personally when he was here in America for a while some years ago. If you do, my greetings to him, please!

I have written to my friend in the American Numismatic Sociery in New York and quoted what you said in the second paragraph that you would like to have some connection with the Society. I have given him your address and asked him to write to you. It is some time since I have heard from him, but I think he is still at the Am. Num. Soc. and I trust you will hear from him in due time.\* Thank you very sincerely for thinking of sending me one of your recent medals. I shall be more than glad to have it, and I will see if we can have a little exhibition of your work here sometime in a few months. I am so glad you have survived these cruel years! Yugoslavia surely needs the inspiration of your great art now, more than ever. All good fortune to you!

Sincerely, your friend

William Chauncy Langdon

Prof. Ivo Kerdić / Umjetnička Akademija / Zagreb, Croatia/ Jugoslavia

\*His name and address: - Sydney Noe, Esq. American Numismatic Society, 155th Street and Broadway, New York City, New York.»

### **Pismo br. 59.**

**29. prosinca 1946., Zagreb – I. Kerdić W. C. Langdonu**

W. Chauncy Langdon, Esq. / Roseville Road / Westport, Connecticut / U.S.A.

Zagreb, 29th December

My dear friend,

Your dear letter I received on the 26th September of this year and thank for your kindness and feelings which you are expressing to me already through many years. I am happy that I can send you as a present my medal which I made for 60 years of my life. This anniversary started in the war and brings me much sorrows and worried which have affected my health. I am so tired that I am almost unable for an intensive work. According to physician's advice I must cease working, which however, my nature does not like. With a view not be perfectly without any work I wrote my «course of life».

My medal which I modelled has carved in steel my pupil Krivak as a gift for my 60 year jubilee. He is now manager of a factory and there he minted 25 pieces of my medals. Out of this number 5 were made in silver and one of these silver medals was destined for you. This medal I am sending under separate parcel and trust that you will safely receive same. Please acknowledge the receipt. On the obverse of the medal is my portrait and the inscription Ivo Kerdić 1881 – 1941, and on the reverse: «Ej Slavonijo,» /song from my native region/, and underneath «to my family and to my friends.»

A am also obliged for the address of your friend Mr. Sydney Noe. Up to date however I did not receive any news from him and will write him in due course.

Wishing you Happy New Year and all good in the next year, please accept my kind regards.

Yours sincerely,»

### **Pismo br. 60.**

**9. ožujka 1947., Westport – Marion Langdon I. Kerdiću.**

Mrs. William Chauncy Langdon/ Roseville Road/ Westport, Connecticut

My dear Prof. Kerdić,

It will sadden you to know that my husband is very ill and has been so for the past two months.

Your very beautiful medal reached him here on February 13 just six days after your letter and at that time he was here at home and able to read the letter and enjoy the me-

dal when it arrived. He thought it so beautiful and he wept over it and your kindness in sending it to him in the midst of your troubled life. We planned then to write to you immediately and he told me what he wanted to say to you in my letter.

It was not however possible for me to write just then as he became so violently ill that I was unable to do anything but take care of him. He was taken to a nearby hospital on Feb. 15 and has been there ever since. It will not be possible to bring him home as he has to have blood transfusions and X-Ray treatment and try to keep him somewhat contented but of course he wants nothing but to come home.

He is suffering from leukemia and as far as I know there is no cure for it – but we can only hope that some miracle will spare him to us for a while. He suffered a stroke in October and he never recovered from it and from Christmas time on he grew steadily worse. He is now in his seventy-sixth year and we cannot expect him to have the strength that a younger man might have.

You will realize how deeply he was touched by your sending the very beautiful medal and will rejoice with me that it came while he could still enjoy it. Indeed I have taken it over to the hospital twice since that he might renew his pleasure in it but I always bring it back here for safe keeping.

Please forgive my delay in writing to you. I will write again if there is any change in his condition but I want you to know what he thanks you!

Faithfully

Marion A. H. Langdon

March 19, 1947.

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